

STAFFORD
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the
Medical Officer of Health
and the
Chief Sanitary Inspector
FOR THE YEAR 1947

AUGUST, 1948

ANNUAL REPORT

Public Health Department,
7, St. Mary's Grove,
Stafford.
August, 1948.

To the Chairman and Members of the Stafford Rural District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour of submitting to you the Annual Report for the Year 1947.

The report, as in former years, conforms with recommendations put forward by the Ministry of Health.

Statistics in the body of the report show that in 1947 the Stafford Rural District had a Live Birth Rate of 18.7 and a Death Rate of 10.2 per 1,000 civilian population, compared with respective figures of 20.5 and 12.0 for England and Wales. In the Stafford Rural District in 1947 the excess of live births over total deaths was 129. The Infant Mortality Rate in the area was 32, compared with 41 for England and Wales.

The estimated population was given at 15,160 by the Registrar-General (in 1946 the figure was 14,940).

Only 2 cases of Diphtheria occurred in 1947 (both male cases—1 aged 14, the other over 30); both cases were of a mild type. At the end of 1947 the Diphtheria Immunisation State of the child population was estimated as being that 67 per cent. under 5 years and 94 per cent. 5—14 years had been immunised.

The outbreak of Acute Poliomyelitis (Infantile Paralysis) in the country in 1947 was a very notable feature. Six cases occurred in the Stafford Rural Area, fortunately with no deaths.

The housing situation in the Rural Area still remains very unsatisfactory. Eighteen new permanent houses were erected during 1947—10 by the Local Authority and 8 by private enterprise. Seventeen temporary dwellings were provided at Hixon, by adaptation of former Service hutments.

There are many hopelessly unfit dwellings in the Area, the only remedy in such cases being demolition. The Ministry of Health, however, will not allow demolition of such houses until the provision of new houses in the country is at a more advanced stage.

The unsatisfactory sewerage arrangements still exist at Colwich, Great Haywood, Little Haywood, Walton, Milford, Brocton and

many of the other villages in the Area. While an outstanding need of many rural areas is an adequate supply of water, the provision of piped supplies in houses, under the Government's policy, with the consequent large increase in water consumption, will soon give rise to insanitary conditions unless sewerage closely follows the extension of water mains. This position is recognised in the Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Act, 1944, which provides grants for sewerage and sewage disposal in cases where the provision is necessary because of steps taken, or proposed to be taken, to increase piped water supplies.

Circular 87/47, issued by the Ministry of Health in May, 1947, dealt with the short-term policy as regards Rural Sewerage. Apparently in schemes submitted by Local Authorities, there was a tendency to provide sewers at considerable expense for remote properties, where needs were not urgent, and that there was a risk that, by so doing, the limited amount of labour and materials available for this work would be diverted from more urgent requirements. Local Authorities were therefore advised to limit their first programmes of Rural Sewerage to schemes for those parts of their districts where (1) groups of 20 or more houses are sufficiently concentrated to enable sewerage to be provided at reasonable cost, (2) Sanitary conditions are such as to call for immediate attention, or (3) new housing development within the next few years will bring areas within either of the foregoing categories. It was stated that the characteristics of the areas to be sewered are too varied to admit of any general rule as to the capital cost of schemes, but that experience shows that straightforward schemes on the foregoing lines can be carried out for about £50 for each property likely to be connected to the sewers, with more complicated schemes costing as much as £100 per house, exceptionally £120 per house. Local Authorities were therefore advised that, as a general rule, the Minister of Health would not approve schemes for immediate execution if the cost exceeded those figures, but that if there were special reasons for not keeping within these limits they should consult the Ministry before planning reaches an advanced stage.

I have to thank the Chief Sanitary Inspector and the Additional Sanitary Inspector for help in preparing this report and to acknowledge once again the help and courtesy extended to me by the Public Health Committee and Members of the Council during 1947.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ALEXANDER THOMSON.

Public Health Committee, 1947.

Chairman—

COUNCILLOR A. J. BOURNE.

Vice-Chairman—

COUNCILLOR J. GOUGH.

Members—

Coun. J. R. Ball	Coun. H. C. Plant
„ H. H. Fox	„ J. E. Poulson
„ J. C. Holme	„ S. Robinson
„ A. J. James	„ C. W. Stubbs
„ P. Kemp	„ A. J. Tomlinson
„ W. Martin	„ W. Turner
	„ C. G. Wright

Public Health Officers.

Medical Officer of Health—

A. THOMSON, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (Edin.).

Chief Sanitary Inspector—

G. M. LAWTON, A.M.I.S.E., M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., Certified Food Inspector.

Additional Sanitary Inspector—

A. F. WARD, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., Certified Food Inspector

Clerk—

MRS. M. MacNAUGHTEN.

General Statistics, Social Conditions and Health Services in the Area.

Area (in acres)	80,249
Number of Inhabited Houses	4,047
Rateable Value	£74,266
Sum represented by a penny rate	£307 4s. 10d.
Population (as estimated by the Registrar-General)	15,160
Estimated number of Agricultural Workers	1,149
Estimated number of workers in other occupations	5,101
Estimated number of employed persons	6,250

There were no alterations in the Boundaries of the Rural Area in 1947.

Industries.

Many residents of the Area are normally mainly engaged in Agriculture, Dairy Farming and allied occupations, but a sub-

stantial number residing in the rural area are employed in the County Town of Stafford, where the chief industries are Engineering and Boot and Shoe Manufacturing.

Vital Statistics for the Year 1947.

In 1947 the Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of the civilian population was 18.7, compared with a rate of 20.5 for England and Wales.

Year.	Stafford R.D. Live Birth Rate per 1,000 Civilian Population.				
1947	18.7
1946	18.7
1945	18.2
1944	19.6
1943	21.1
1942	19.3
1941	17.9
1940	16.8

The Still-Birth Rate per 1,000 civilian population was 0.86 in 1947, compared with rates of 0.27, 0.41, 0.40, 0.55, 0.61 in 1946, 1945, 1944, 1943, and 1942 respectively.

During 1947 the rate of Illegitimate to Legitimate Births was 1 to 13, compared with 1 to 16, 1 to 15, 1 to 14, 1 to 16 and 1 to 36 in 1946, 1945, 1944, 1943 and 1942 respectively.

There were 284 (279) Live Births in the Rural Area in 1947, 149 (133) boys and 135 (146) girls. The figures in brackets are the corresponding figures for 1946.

In the following table comparative figures for Live and Still Births are shown for England and Wales :—

		Live Birth Rate per 1,000 Civilian Population.	
Year		Stafford R.D.	England & Wales
1947	.....	18.7	20.5
1946	.....	18.7	19.1
1945	.....	18.2	16.1
1944	.....	19.6	17.6
1943	.....	21.1	16.5

		Still-Birth Rate per 1,000 Civilian Population.	
Year		Stafford R.D.	England & Wales
1947	.....	0.86	0.50
1946	.....	0.27	0.53
1945	.....	0.41	0.46
1944	.....	0.40	0.50
1943	.....	0.55	0.51

Deaths.

In 1947 the Death-Rate per 1,000 of the Civilian Population was 10.2, compared with a Rate of 12.0 for England and Wales.

		Death-Rate per 1,000 Civilian Population.	
Year		Stafford R.D.	England & Wales.
1947	.....	10.2	12.0
1946	.....	9.3	11.5
1945	.....	10.9	11.4
1944	.....	9.8	11.6
1943	.....	12.9	12.1

In the Stafford Rural District total deaths in 1947 numbered 155, 84 males and 71 females. The excess of live births over total deaths was 129, compared with 140 and 108 in 1946 and 1945 respectively.

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age totaled 9, 9 legitimate and 0 illegitimate, giving a Death Rate per 1,000 live births of 32, compared with a rate of 41 for England and Wales.

Infant Mortality Rate.

		Death-Rate of Children under 1 year of age per 1,000 Live Births.	
Year		Stafford R.D.	England & Wales
1947	.....	32	41
1946	.....	61	43
1945	.....	22.4	46
1944	.....	44	46

Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age.

		Rates per 1,000 Live Births.	
Year		Stafford R.D.	England & Wales
1947	—	5.8
1946	—	4.4
1945	—	5.6

Laboratory Facilities, Ambulance Facilities, Nursing in the Home, Treatment Centres and Voluntary Hospitals.

Bacteriological facilities are made available to the General Practitioners in the Area by the Public Health Laboratory Service, Stafford. Such facilities include examinations of Throat Swabs, Sputum Tests, Blood Tests, etc. Bacteriological examinations of samples of drinking water, etc., are also undertaken by the Laboratory Service.

The Chemical Examinations of samples of water are carried out at the County Chemical Laboratory.

The Stafford Rural District Council has agreements with the Stafford Borough and Rugeley Urban District Councils for use of their ambulances for general hospital work, and the services provided prove adequate and sufficient for the needs of the Rural Area. The Mid-Staffs. Joint Hospital Board, of which the Stafford R.D. is a constituent member, provides ambulance facilities for the conveyance of cases of Infectious Diseases to Isolation Hospitals.

The County Council is the Maternity and Child Welfare Authority for the Stafford R.D. Area. Child Welfare Centres are available at Walton, Gnosall and Great Haywood, and the Health

Visitors do excellent work in promoting the welfare of young children in the district. Your Medical Officer of Health attends the Welfare Centres and schools in the Area and is thus enabled to assess the health standards of the young life in the district.

There are two resident General Practitioners in the area and practitioners from neighbouring towns, Stafford, Newport, etc., also practise in the district. The various parishes in the Stafford R.D. are well served by District Nurse-Midwives. The Staffordshire General Infirmary is the Voluntary Hospital serving the general hospital needs of the district. Maternity hospital facilities are provided by the County Council ; there are also several Private Maternity Homes which provide for the needs of the area.

Deaths from Selected Causes, 1947.

Cause of Death	Males	Females	Totals
Typhoid and Para-Typhoid Fevers	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	1	—	1
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Tuberculosis of Respiratory Centre	2	1	3
Other forms of Tuberculosis	1	—	1
Syphilitic Diseases	—	1	1
Influenza	3	1	4
Measles	1	—	1
Diabetes	—	—	—
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	2	—	2
Acute Polio-myelitis and Polio-Encephalitis	—	—	—
Cancer—all Sites	13	13	26
Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions	9	7	16
Heart Disease	22	23	45
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	3	4	7
Bronchitis	6	3	9
Pneumonia	1	1	2
Diarrhoea under 2 years	—	—	—
Appendicitis	—	1	1
Other Digestive Diseases	2	3	5
Nephritis	2	3	5
Puerperal and post-abortion sepsis	—	1	1
Other Maternal Causes	—	2	2
Premature Births	2	2	4
Congenital, Birth Injuries, etc.	2	—	2
Suicide	2	2	4
Road Traffic Accidents	2	—	2
Other Violent Causes	2	1	3
All Other Causes	6	2	8
Totals	84	71	155

Infectious Diseases.

The Incidence of Infectious Diseases in 1947 compared with the five previous years is shewn below in tabular form :—

Disease	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942
Scarlet Fever	35	26	27	46	59	18
Whooping Cough	16	37	35	25	78	22
Diphtheria	2	—	2	6	4	5
Erysipelas	1	2	4	2	2	9
Measles (excluding Rubella) ..	125	1	164	75	110	10
Acute Primary Pneumonia	3	3	2	5	6	12
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	—	1	5	1	4
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	—	1	—	—	3
Dysentery	1	10	1	7	2	—
Typhoid Fever	—	1	—	—	—	—
Para-Typhoid Fever	—	1	—	—	—	—
Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis	6	—	—	—	—	—

Names of Parishes in Stafford Rural District shewing number of Houses (including Farm Houses), approximate Population Figures and Incidence of Infectious Diseases in each Parish in 1947.

Name of Parish.	Number of Houses	Approximate Population * *	Infectio Diseases Notified.										
			Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Measles	Whooping Cough	Primary Pneumonia	Dysentry	Enteric or Typhoid	Para- Typhoid	Erysipelas	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis
Adbaston	160	603	3	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Baswich	328	1,044	1	—	13	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bradley	87	295	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Brocton	198	622	2	1	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Castle Church	188	573	1	1	10	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Church Eaton	161	487	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Colwich	471	1,561	5	—	1	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Creswell	84	350	1	—	7	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ellenhall	53	165	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Forton	133	450	—	—	27	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Fradswell	40	148	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gayton	50	184	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gnosall	594	1,905	7	—	10	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Haughton	149	485	5	—	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
High Offley.....	177	616	—	—	7	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hopton and Coton	75	320	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ingestre	38	125	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Marston	51	192	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Norbury	83	269	—	—	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ranton	67	264	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Salt & Enson	101	411	1	—	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Seighford	258	880	4	—	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Stowe	277	857	1	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tixall	56	190	2	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Weston	113	386	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whitgreave ...	55	201	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
TOTALS	4,047	13583	35	2	125	16	3	1	—	—	1	—	6

** The Registrar-General estimated the population of the Stafford Rural District at 15,160 (1947).

Age—Incidence of Infectious Diseases, 1947.

AGE-GROUPS	Scarlet Fever		Diphtheria		Measles (excluding Rubella)		Whooping Cough		Pneumonia (Acute Primary)		Dysentery		Enteric or Typhoid		Paratyphoid		Erysipelas		Ophthalmia Neonatorum		Acute Anterior Polio myelitis	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	3	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—4 years	1	1	—	—	19	17	3	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	1	—
5—10 years	13	12	—	—	35	38	2	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
11—15 years	—	4	1	—	5	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
16—20 years	2	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
21—30 years	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
31—50 years	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
51—70 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Over 70 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	16	19	2	—	64	61	6	10	3	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	3	3	—

Infectious Diseases Notifications, 1947, showing Months of Occurrence.

MONTH	Scarlet Fever	Diph- theria	Measles (ex- cluding Rubella)	Whoop- ing Cough	Pneumonia (Acute Primary)	Dysentery	Enteric or Typhoid Fever	Para- Typhoid Fever	Erysipelas	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Acute Anterior Polio- myelitis
January	3	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
February	1	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
March	1	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
April	4	—	34	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
May	—	—	20	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
June	2	—	11	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
July	3	—	1	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
August	—	1	—	3	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
September	2	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
October	8	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
November	2	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
December	9	—	34	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	35	2	125	16	3	1	—	—	1	—	6

Birth-rates, Civilian Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality and Case-Rates
for certain Infectious Diseases in the year, 1947.

Year 1947.	Stafford Rural District.	England and Wales.	126 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London.	148 smaller Towns with Resident Populations 25,000—50,000 at 1931 Census.	London Administrative County.
		Rates	per 1,000 Civilian Population.		
Births :—					
Live Births	18.7	20.5	23.3	22.2	22.7
Still Births	0.86	0.50	0.62	0.54	0.49
Deaths :—					
All causes	10.2	12.0	13.0	11.9	12.8
Typhoid and Para-Typhoid	—	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Scarlet Fever	—	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.07	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.02
Diphtheria	—	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Influenza	0.26	0.09	0.09	0.08	0.08
Smallpox	—	0.00	0.00	0.00	—
Measles	0.07	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.01

A dash (—) signifies that there were no deaths.

A dash (—) signifies that there were no deaths.

Infectious Diseases.—Notifications, Year, 1947.

YEAR 1947.	Stafford Rural District.	England and Wales.	126 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London.	148 Smaller Towns with Resident Populations 25,000—50,000 at 1931 Census.	London Administrative County.
		Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population :—			
NOTIFICATIONS.					
Typhoid Fever ..	—	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.01
Para-Typhoid Fever ..	—	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ..	—	0.05	0.06	0.05	0.05
Scarlet Fever ..	2.31	1.37	1.54	1.37	1.31
Whooping Cough ..	1.10	2.22	2.41	2.02	2.80
Diphtheria ..	0.13	0.13	0.15	0.14	0.14
Erysipelas ..	0.07	0.19	0.21	0.18	0.22
Small Pox ..	—	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00
Measles ..	8.20	9.41	9.13	9.58	5.29
Pneumonia ..	0.20	0.79	0.89	0.68	0.64

A dash (—) signifies there were no cases.

	Rates per 1,000 Live Births.			
	32	41	47	36
Deaths under 1 year of age ..				37
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age ..	—	5.8	8.0	3.7
				4.8

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Since 1941, when the immunisation campaign started in England and Wales, until the end of June, 1947, nearly seven million children have been immunised under Local Authority Schemes. The value of Diphtheria Immunisation has been amply proved, and the control of Diphtheria rests on the production of the maximum degree of active immunity in the greatest number of persons at as early an age as is practicable, and in the maintenance of that immunity.

Diphtheria Immunisation, Stafford R.D., 1947.

Number of Children who completed a full course of Primary Immunisation.			Number of Children who were given a Secondary or Reinforcing Injection, i.e., subsequent to complete full dose.
Under 5 years	5-14 years.	Total	
138	5	143	220

STAFFORD R.D.

Mid-1947 Child Population.	Estimated percentage of mid- 1947 child population immun- ised against Diphtheria up to 31.12.47.		
Under 5 years.	5-14 years.	Under 5 years.	5-14 years
1317	1956	67%	94%

Corrected Notifications of Diphtheria, 1944, 1945 and 1946 in England and Wales (Civilians).

Age.	1944		1945		1946	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
0—	167	111	106	82	100	61
1—	757	603	610	476	494	354
3—	1,307	1,226	1,067	934	725	637
5—	3,537	3,663	2,884	3,064	1,754	1,706
10—	2,022	2,395	1,581	1,886	926	1,196
15—	1,046	2,677	846	1,961	545	1,378
25 and over	519	1,884	445	1,508	533	1,122
Age unknown	77	94	48	82	22	48
Totals	9,432	12,653	7,587	9,993	5,099	6,502

Tuberculosis.

An extract from the Tuberculosis Register of the Stafford Rural District is given below :—

Year	Pulmonary Tuberculosis			Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.			Total Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.		
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
At end of December, 1947	50	34	84	22	24	46	72	58	130
„ 1946	45	32	77	21	23	44	66	55	121
„ 1945	45	30	75	21	23	44	66	53	119
„ 1944	44	28	72	17	24	41	61	52	113
„ 1943	41	28	69	14	23	37	55	51	106

Ninety years ago Tuberculosis was causing 66,000 deaths annually in England and Wales among a population one half that of the present population, giving a crude death rate of nearly 3,500 per million living. In 1946 total deaths from Tuberculosis numbered 22,847, giving a rate of 533. It is pointed out, however, that there is no room for complacency in face of a disease which still causes nearly one-third of all deaths at ages 15 to 39. In England and Wales during 1939-45 the yearly average number of formal notifications of Respiratory Tuberculosis was 39,940. Except for a slight decrease in 1945, there has been a steady annual increase, the figure in 1946 being 42,173.

The total number of persons examined in England and Wales by means of Mass Radiography up to end of December, 1946, was 1,369,011 (753,409 males and 615,602 females) 93% of the persons examined were between the ages of 15 and 59. 95% of those examined (1,297,358 persons) were found to have no abnormal chest condition. Previously unsuspected active tuberculosis of the lungs was revealed in 4 per 1,000 (5,438 persons).

**England and Wales—Estimated Mean Population
in thousands by Age and Sex in 1946 and proportion
per 1,000 at all ages.**

Age	Population (in thousands)			Proportion per 1,000
	Males.	Females	Persons	Persons
0—	1,676	1,596	3,272	80
5—	1,439	1,390	2,829	69
10—	1,402	1,365	2,767	68
15—	1,148	1,442	2,590	64
20—	725	1,536	2,261	55
25—	2,645	3,277	5,922	145
35—	3,174	3,422	6,596	162
45—	2,549	2,965	5,514	135
55—	2,028	2,486	4,514	111
65—	1,348	1,738	3,086	76
75—	480	724	1,204	30
85 & over	63	127	190	5
All Ages	18,677	22,068	40,745	1,000

The number of notifications of Diphtheria in 1947 was the lowest ever recorded. There has been a steady decline in the incidence of Diphtheria since 1942, and it is now about one-sixth of the immediate pre-war level. The lowest number of weekly notifications in 1947 was 138, compared with 815 and 788 in 1938 and 1937, and the largest weekly total in 1947 was 256 compared with 1,889 in 1938 and 1,823 in 1937. The decline in the notifications of Cerebro-Spinal Fever since the outbreak in 1940, when 12,791 cases were notified during the year, has been interrupted and the notifications in 1947 were slightly above the totals for the three preceding years.

The large decrease in the incidence of Dysentery recorded in 1946 has been repeated and the disease has now reverted to the pre-war level. Notifications of Typhoid and Paratyphoid were considerably fewer than in 1946 but were above the level of the three years preceding 1946. In the outbreak of acute Poliomyelitis, perhaps the chief feature of 1947, the notifications exceeded 600 per week for the four weeks from the 33rd—36th week, compared with 10 to 30 cases in the preceding four years.

Births and Deaths, England and Wales, during 1947.

The number of Live Births registered in England and Wales during 1947 was 886,633, the highest figure since 1920. This represents a Birth Rate of 20.5 per 1,000, which is 1.4 above the value for 1946 and is the highest Birth Rate since 1921. There

were 517,622 deaths registered, which is equivalent to a rate of 12.0 per 1,000 and 0.5 above the rate for 1946.

INFANT MORTALITY.

The Infant Mortality Rate, which has been steadily declining since the beginning of this century, reached the record low level of 41 per 1,000 live births in 1947. In 1900 the Infant Mortality Rate was 150. Of the many and complex factors responsible for the decline in the Infant Mortality Rate, one of the most important is the increase in knowledge of Infant Welfare and Management.

During 1947 an outbreak of Smallpox occurred in Staffordshire—in the areas of Bilston, Coseley, Willenhall and Dudley. The outbreak was reported to have originated in a soldier who travelled from India by air and was at home for some days before developing the disease. Of the 30 confirmed cases, 15 were severe, with 6 deaths—5 from Haemorrhagic Smallpox and 1 in an unvaccinated confluent case.

When Smallpox occurs in individuals who possess some basal immunity (i.e. by vaccination) the clinical picture presented by the disease is confusing and may confound even experts. Though the illness may be mild and indefinite in a patient who is partially immune to Smallpox, the causative Virus itself loses none of its virulence and may still cause severe disease in susceptible contacts.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Sanitary Inspection.—Summary of Visits.

Inspection of Dwelling Houses	.....	766
These Inspections were for the following purposes :—		
(a) Inspection of Houses for defects	.....	62
(b) Re-inspection of Houses	.....	114
(c) Inspections of living Vans and Sheds	.....	40
(d) Inspections of Service Buildings occupied by Squatters	.....	96
(e) Overcrowding and Inadequate Accommodation	.....	104
(f) Building Licences for House Repair	.....	188
(g) Council House Management	.....	162
		<hr/> 766 <hr/>
Inspection of Premises for and re Nuisances	.....	156
Visits <i>re</i> Food Supply—Meat	.....	197
Ditto ditto other Foods	.....	41
Drainage Inspections	.....	102
New Drains Laid and Tested	.....	31
Cowsheds and Dairies	.....	96
Infectious Diseases	.....	77
Visits <i>re</i> Water Supply	.....	68
Samples of Water taken—Chemical and Bacteriological	.....	40
Re Salvage Collection	.....	32

Refuse Collection and Disposal	.....	159
Factories (including Bakehouses)	.....	31
Knackers' Yards	.....	28
Petroleum Stores	.....	4
Rat Infestations	.....	120
Fumigations	.....	33
Prevention of Squatting in Military Huts	.....	103
Inspections of Hut Sites for possible conversion	.....	13
Keeping of Animals	.....	14
Shops Acts	.....	13
Miscellaneous Visits	.....	27
		<hr/>
		2,151

NOTICES SERVED DURING YEAR :

Informal Notices and Letters	.....	56
Statutory Notices to Remedy Nuisances	.....	3
Compliance with Notices served 1947 and previously :		
Informal Notices and Letters	.....	59
Statutory Notices	.....	2

WATER SUPPLY.

Approximately half of the dwellings in the Rural District have a piped supply. The remainder rely on supplies from shallow wells, deep wells, narrow boreholes and springs. By far the greater number of those dwellings with a piped supply are served by either the Milford Reservoirs (Stafford Borough Council)—a chlorinated supply—or by this Council's Boreholes at the Hollies, Gnosall. On samples taken recently, the Bacteriologist reports favourably in both cases and the chemical analyses are as follows :—

Analysis. Sample 1—Borough.		Parts per 100,000
Total Solid Matter dried at 212°F.	.....	19.0
Free and Saline Ammonia	.....	0.0004
Albuminoid	.....	0.0032
Nitric Nitrogen	.....	0.07
Chlorine	.....	2.4
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 80°F.	.....	Nil
Appearance	.....	Clear
Injurious Metallic Contamination	.....	None
pH Value	.....	7.7

Analysis. Sample 2—Hollies.		
Total Solid Matter dried at 212°F.	.....	39.0
Free and Saline Ammonia	.....	Nil
Albuminoid	.....	0.0020
Nitric Nitrogen	.....	0.55
Chlorine	.....	1.7
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 80°F.	.....	0.003
Appearance	.....	Some suspended matter. Very slightly opalescent. Very slight yellow colour.
Metallic Contamination	.....	Extremely minute trace of Iron
pH Value	.....	7.2

The table which follows shows the results of all samples of drinking water taken during the year from existing supplies.

	No. of samples taken for Bacteriological Examination and Chemical Analysis	Results.	
		Fit.	Unfit.
Wells (private)	25	7	18
Springs (private)	3	1	2
Mains Supplies :			
(a) Public	4	3	1
(b) Private	3	1	2
Boreholes	1	—	1
	36	12	24

In addition 4 samples were taken from supplies of water in order to ascertain their suitability for “ harnessing ” for public use.

The one unfit sample from a public supply (shown in the above table) was from the old Audmore (Gnosall) Spring supply and as a result this supply was immediately substituted by a supply from The Hollies Bore.

REFUSE AND SALVAGE COLLECTION.

The collection of house refuse was carried out by direct labour from the Parishes of Adbaston, Berkswich, Brocton, Castle Church, Church Eaton, Colwich, Creswell, Forton, Gnosall, Haughton, High Offley, Norbury, Ranton, Salt, Seighford, Stowe and Weston. Early in 1948 the service was extended so as to embrace all villages in the Council’s district. Three modern type refuse collection vehicles are used for this work.

The several refuse tips were kept in reasonably good order during the year.

15 tons 9 cwts. of paper and cardboard were salvaged during the year.

HOUSING.

New houses erected during 1947 :—

(a) by Local Authority (Permanent Houses)	10
(b) by Private Enterprise	8

In addition, the Council took over the Nissen and other buildings on a disused R.A.F. site and converted them into 17 dwellings, the preparation of details and specification and the supervision of the building work being carried out by this dept.

“Squatting” in military buildings in different parts of the area without permission and mostly by families from other Councils, areas presented a real “ headache ” but such practices have been

supervised as far as is practicable. At Hixon, squatting would have reached uncontrollable dimensions but for the timely intervention of the Health Dept. by the partial demolition of buildings and removal of doors. This work took up a tremendous volume of time as it was carried out by the Dept.'s officers and workmen.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

There are 34 factories (8 mechanical and 26 non-mechanical) in the area and entered in the Factories' Register. 31 Inspections were made and notices were served on factories during the year as follows :—

	Defects.	
	Found	Remedied
Want of Cleanliness	1	—
Defective Sanitary Conveniences	4	2
Sanitary Conveniences not separate for sexes	1	1
Total	6	3

PETROLEUM ACTS.

50 Licences were issued for the bulk storage of 44,550 gallons of motor spirit. Storage, with few exceptions, is by underground tanks with either hand operated or electric pumps.

WATER AND SEWERAGE.

I am indebted to Mr. C. Bland, the Council's Engineer and Surveyor, for the following comments on Water and Sewerage.

During the year the Housing Schemes at Bromstead, Forton, Adbaston and Ellenhall, have been completed and Submersible Borehole Pumps and Water Supply systems fitted in each case. The schemes at Woodseaves and Haughton will also be supplied with the same type of pump. A borehole has been successfully drilled at Church Eaton and, in addition to supplying the houses proposed to be erected there, two stand pipes will be fitted to supply the other houses in the village with water.

Sewage Disposal Works, consisting of settling tanks and filters to give a purified effluent, have been installed at Adbaston and Ellenhall. The sites at Woodseaves and Haughton will also be provided with similar types of Disposal Works and at Bromstead and Forton schemes have been prepared and are now under consideration by the Ministry of Health for the provision of disposal works so that the existing septic tanks may be done away with.

Water Supply.

Section 2 of the Western Area Water Scheme has been commenced after many months of negotiation with the Ministry of

Health. Progress on the scheme to date has been very disappointing due to the difficulty of supply of essential materials. The reservoir at Hob Hill has been commenced but, again, progress, has not been all that might be wished as supplies of cement have been very difficult. Pipe-laying in the Gnosall Heath area has been commenced.

The Council during the year has decided to ask the Ministry of Health to sanction the commencement of pipe-laying in the remainder of the Western Area Water Scheme, such main-laying to cover the parishes of Adbaston, High Offley, Forton, Norbury, Gnosall, Church Eaton, Bradley, Haughton, Ranton and Ellenhall and at the time of going to press the decision of the Ministry is still awaited. There is no doubt that the Agricultural Community is becoming much more "water minded" and the increase of milk production is very largely dependent upon an adequate supply of pure, wholesome water to the many farms in the area.

Seighford.

The extension of the Borough Main from Great Bridgeford to Seighford Village has now been commenced and progress is very favourable.

Audmore.

A scheme for extending the mains in Gnosall Village to Audmore has been prepared and submitted to the Ministry of Health and at the time of going to press this approval is still awaited.

Weston, Salt and Enson, Fradswell, Gayton and Stowe.

Alternative schemes for the extension of mains to serve these parishes have been prepared in draft. The first alternative is to take a bulk supply from the Stafford Borough mains at Farley and the second alternative provides for the sinking of a borehole in Salt from which a supply to this Eastern Area might be given. The Ministry of Health are at present considering the two alternatives, but no decision has yet been received.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

The Council, during the year, has considered several alternative schemes for the sewage disposal in the parishes of Brocton, Berkswich, Colwich, Stowe and Weston and decided to appoint additional staff in the Engineer and Surveyor's Department so that the details of a scheme for this area might be prepared. Draft plans and estimates for the several alternatives that are available for this

area have been prepared and forwarded to the Minister of Health for his comments but to date no comments have been received. The problem of providing adequate sewerage facilities, particularly to the villages of Walton, Milford, Brocton, Great and Little Haywood, becomes increasingly urgent and serious and it is to be hoped that the Ministry's decision as to which alternative scheme is considered best will not be long delayed in order that positive steps can be taken to prepare the approved scheme so that tenders might be invited and work commenced.

REFUSE COLLECTION SERVICES ADMINISTERED BY R.D.C.

1. Service.	2. Parishes or places receiving the service.	4. Growth of Service.					5. Proposals for the future
		1921-31	31/3/34	1/4/34-39	39-45	45 to date	
Refuse Collection i.e., <i>all</i> the villages (large and small) in Rural District.	Adbaston	—	—	—	—	Serviced	As all but the isolated dwellings now have the service, no further ex- pansion of the service is envisaged, apart from very minor ad- justments.
	Bishops Offley	—	—	—	—	do..	
	Walton and Milford	—	—	Serviced	Serviced	do.	
	Brocton	—	—	do.	do.	do.	
	Bradley	—	—	—	—	do.	
	Castle Church	—	—	Serviced	Serviced	do.	
	Hyde Lea, Mossdit, Ashflats, Rickers- cote	—	—	—	do	do.	
	Church Eaton	—	—	—	—	do.	
	Colwich, Gt. Haywood, Lt. Haywood	—	—	Serviced	Serviced	do.	
	Creswell	—	—	do.	do.	do.	
	Forton, Sutton, Islington	—	—	—	—	do.	
	Ellenhall	—	—	—	—	do.	
	Fradswell	—	—	—	—	do.	
	Gayton	—	—	—	—	do.	
	Gnosall, Moreton, Bromstead, Out- woods	—	—	Serviced	Serviced	do.	
	Knightley, Knightley Dale, Knightley Grange	—	—	—	—	do.	

* At present date (May, 1948) about 300 dwellings are not serviced pending provision of bins by owner or occupier. Action by local authority to obtain these bins progressing.

Haughton	
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RODENT CONTROL.

During the year the Stafford R.D.C. agreed to participate in 2 Specially-Assisted schemes of the Ministry of Food, in regard to Rodent Control.

Under the schemes financial assistance is given to Local Authorities who carry out rat disinfection work as regards :—

(a) Sewers. (Ministry Circular N.S. 11 of 18th March, 1946).

(b) Surface properties (Ministry Circular N.S. 12 of the 10th May, 1946).

In June, 1947, and October, 1947, the whole of the foul sewers within the area of the Stafford R.D.C. were “ tested ” for rat infestation, and after three consecutive nights “ No take ” a clear indication was given that not even a minor infestation was present in any of the sewers.

All the refuse tips were surveyed for rat infestation and at the Weston Tip in December, 1947, an estimated kill of 82 rats was obtained by the use of bases Sausage rusk and bread mash together with poisons Zinc Phosphide and Arsenic.

For work carried out at Trade premises, as distinct from private houses, the cost of all disinfection work was charged to the owners, and in November and December a highly successful effort resulted in an Estimated kill of 94 rats in a privately owned warehouse in the district.

In addition to the above the department carried out disinfection work from time to time at various other premises.

Particulars of Food Inspected during the Year:—

MEAT.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

		Bulls and Bullocks	Cows	Héifers	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
	No. killed and inspected	12	131	22	6	5	—	573
	Whole carcases condemned	2	73	12	4	3	—	2
Meat condemned due to diseases other than tuberculosis	Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	4	14	5	1	1	—	2
	Whole carcases condemned	—	23	2	—	—	—	—
Meat condemned due to tuberculosis	Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	5	—	—	—	—	—

The above animals were killed and examined at a Casualty Slaughterhouse in the area, which is the reason for the high percentage of Meat condemned.

Weight of Meat (excluding Horses) Condemned due to :—

(a) Tuberculosis	7,125 lbs.	
(b) Other Diseases or Conditions	25,325 lbs.	
	<hr/>	32,450 lbs.

Weight of Horseflesh Condemned 1,800 lbs.

Weight of other Foods Condemned :

(a) Tinned Foods	675 lbs.	
(b) Other miscellaneous Foods (including 723 lbs. from Military and N.A.A.F.I. Establishments)	830 lbs.	
	<hr/>	1,505 lbs.

Total weight of Food Condemned

35,755 lbs.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) REGULATIONS.

Of Milk Producers in the district 323 hold Accredited Milk Licences and 24 hold Tuberculin-Tested Milk Licences (issued by Staffordshire C.C.). There were, during 1947, 3 retailers licensed by this council to sell graded milk, i.e. one for Tuberculin-Tested Milk, one for Tuberculin-Tested (Pasteurised), and one for Pasteurised Milk (Supplementary Licence).

A. THOMSON,
Medical Officer of Health.

G. M. LAWTON,
Chief Sanitary Inspector.

